Remarks

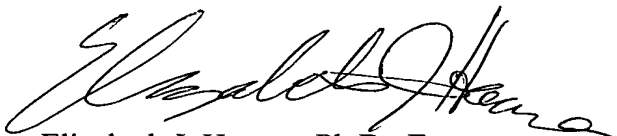
Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-83 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 80, and 83 being the independent claims. The amendment brings the specification into conformity with the ATCC deposit information submitted herewith. This deposit has been made solely for convenience upon issuance of the Patent. Applicants do not believe the deposit is required and no presumption of any requirement is created by this deposit. The change to the specification is believed to introduce no new matter. Accordingly, its entry is respectfully requested.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Version with markings to show changes made

The Specification has been amended as follows:

Paragraph [405] at page 164:

17.2 Establishing Igα and Igβ-expressing HeLaS3 and COS7 stable transfectants. HeLaS3 and COS7 cells ($1x10^6$ per well in a 6-well plate) were transfected with 0.5 to 1 μg each of the purified pIRESneo-Igα and pIREShyg-Igβ plasmid DNA using the LIPOFECTAMINE PLUS Reagent (Life technologies). Starting two days later, cells were selected with G418 (at 0.4 mg/ml) and hygromycin B (at 0.2 mg/ml) for about 2 weeks. Drug-resistant HeLaS3 colonies were directly isolated and COS7 transfectants were cloned by limiting dilution. The expression of Igα and Igβ in each of these clones was then analyzed by RT-PCR, and the results from the representative clones were as shown in Figure 14. A representative HeLaS3 transfectant, HeLaS3-Igαβ, was deposited at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) Patent Depository, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209, as ATCC Deposit Number PTA-4006 on January 24, 2002.